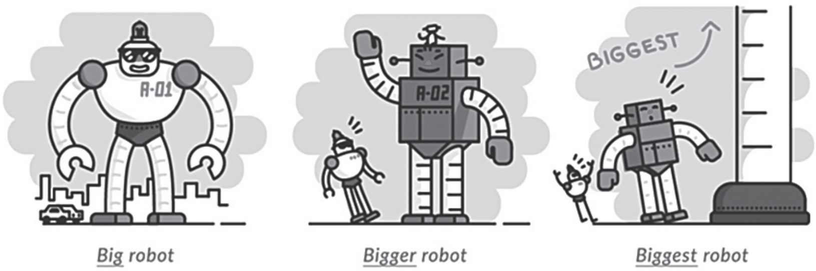
Adjective

SEMESTRAL UNI - 2023 II

Comparatives and superlatives compare or show relationships.



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What is a Comparative?

Comparative Adjectives are words used to describe a noun by comparing it to another noun. We usually think of '**er**' words like **bigger** or **smaller**, but they can be a little trickier than that.
The way we form comparative adjectives is based on the number of syllables in the adjective and whether or not the adjective ends with the letter 'y'.

What is a Superlative?

Superlative Adjectives are words used to describe a noun when comparing it to two or more nouns to the highest or lowest degree. Think: big, bigger, **biggest**, or small, smaller, **smallest**.
Like with comparative adjectives, it's not always as simple as adding 'est'. The number of syllables and whether or not the adjective ends with the letter 'y' also help us determine how to form a superlative adjective.

One Syllable Adjectives

Let's look at a chart showing the **comparative** and **superlative** forms of the word for the most basic one syllable adjectives, where we add '**er**' for the **comparative** and '**est**' for the **superlative**.
***Note:** when the adjective follows the CVC, or consonant, vowel, consonant spelling, the final consonant is doubled.

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
Big	Bigger	Biggest
Tall	Taller	Tallest
Small	Smaller	Smallest
Hot	Hotter	Hottest

Comparative Adjectives:

- I am **faster** than my friend.
- Arizona is **hotter** than Alaska.

Superlative Adjectives:

- She is the **tallest** student.
- That was the **shortest** movie in the series.

Notice the other words around the comparative and superlative adjectives. **Most comparatives** are followed by '**than**', and **most superlatives** follow the word '**the**'.

Two Syllable Adjectives

Now let's look at a chart showing the **comparative** and **superlative** forms of the word for adjectives with two syllables. **Comparative adjectives** with two syllables can be formed by making the '**er**' ending **or** by adding the words '**more**' or '**less**' before the adjective.
For **superlative adjectives**, you make the '**est**' ending but use the word '**most**' or '**least**' instead of 'more' or 'less'.

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
Happy	Happier	Happiest
Crazy	Crazier	Craziest
Nervous	More/Less Nervous	Most/Least Nervous
Massive	More/Less Massive	Most/Least Massive
Quiet	Quieter or More/Less Quiet	Quietest or Most/Least Quiet

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***Note:** In many cases, either form of the comparative or superlative can be used, but there is generally a 'most common' usage. Additionally, the adjective does not need to end in 'y' in order to use the 'er' or 'est' usage, as the last example in the table shows. Your ear will often be able to recognize what sounds best.

Comparative Adjectives:

- She tends to be **less passive** than her brother.
- This quiz is **simpler** than the last one.

Superlative Adjectives:

- Fall is the **busiest** shopping season.
- This is the **most rapid** method of delivery.

Notice again how the **comparative adjectives** are followed by '**than**', and **superlative adjectives** follow the word '**the**'.

Three or More Syllable Adjectives

The chart below shows the **comparative** and **superlative** forms of the word for adjectives that are three or more syllables long. In these cases, we always add '**more**' or '**less**' before a **comparative adjective** and '**most**' or '**least**' before a **superlative adjective**.

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
Mysterious	More/Less Mysterious	Most/Least Mysterious
Complicated	More/Less Complicated	Most/Least Complicated
Wonderful	More/Less Wonderful	Most/Least Wonderful

Comparative Adjectives:

- I tend to be **more reluctant** than my friends when trying new things.
- The noise at the pool was **less bothersome** than the noise on the beach.

Superlative Adjectives:

- Her second compilation was the **most exceptional** of them all.
- Those were the **least comfortable** couches I have ever sat on.

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Irregular Adjectives

When using **comparative** and **superlative** adjectives, it is important to note that there are a handful of **irregular adjectives** that don't follow the rules above. The chart below shows these irregular adjectives along with their comparative and superlative forms.

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
Good	Better	Best
Bad or Ill	Worse	Worst
Little (Amount)	Less	Least
Far (Distance)	Farther	Farthest
Far (Extent)	Further	Furthest
Many or Much	More	Most

Comparative Adjectives:

- I did **better** than the rest of my class on the final.
- She ran **farther** in this race than she did in the last one.

Superlative Adjectives:

- That was the **best** birthday present ever!
- I bought the **least** expensive souvenir that I could find.